

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Authority to Increase Revenue Requirements to Recover the Costs to Deploy an Advanced Metering Infrastructure. (U 39 E)

Application 05-06-028 (Filed June 16, 2005)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S FURTHER RULING ON CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBITS, TRANSCRIPTS AND BRIEFS

In Application (A.) 05-06-028, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) seeks authorization of its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) deployment proposal and associated cost recovery mechanisms. PG&E served initial prepared testimony on June 16, 2005, and later on various dates served supplemental, revised and rebuttal prepared testimony. Intervenor testimony was served on January 18, and rebuttal testimony on February 8, 2006. Opening briefs were filed on April 3, 2006 and replies on April 14, 2006.

PG&E proposed that certain information regarding the detailed terms of price and warrantee of AMI components were highly sensitive competitive data and that the vendors' business would be adversely affected if the precise terms of PG&E's contracts were public. PG&E is in fact an extremely large utility by any standard and disclosing the prices and warrantees appropriately negotiated in the present situation for its AMI deployment would likely be harmful to the vendors' ongoing business negotiations with other customers.

By a ruling dated August 1, 2005, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Cooke, then-assigned to this proceeding, determined that PG&E could file certain

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information under seal for two years and that non-staff parties could execute a non-disclosure agreement to have access to the confidential materials.

Evidentiary hearings were held February 28 – March 16, 2006. There were 110 exhibits received into evidence. Twelve exhibits and portions of three transcripts were sealed at my direction, and portions of The Utility Reform Network's (TURN) opening brief and PG&E's reply brief were filed as confidential.¹

The Commission has no defined rules or standard practice on the duration of confidentiality of documents sealed by an ALJ ruling or filed with a party's motion for confidential treatment. Therefore, this ruling will determine the final disposition of confidentiality for all sealed exhibits, briefs and transcripts in this proceeding.

I find that all the previously marked confidential information should remain confidential now, but after some reasonable time to mitigate the competitive impact, the public's right to full disclosure requires releasing the data in the sealed exhibits, briefs and transcripts. The August 1, 2005 Ruling granted PG&E a two-year confidentiality period. However, based upon the passage of time to complete evidentiary hearings and briefing in the proceeding, I find that it is reasonable to reset the end of the confidentiality period to two years from the date of this ruling. PG&E may subsequently file a motion for an extension no later than ninety (90) days before the expiration of this Ruling

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¹ PG&E offered exhibits 5-1WC, 8C, 11C, 11C-4E. The Division of Ratepayer Advocates offered exhibits 101C, 103C. TURN offered exhibits 201C, 201C-E, 213C, 214C, 215C, and 232C. Transcripts for portions of Volume 4, dated March 3, 2006, Volume 7, dated March 8, 2006, and Volume 8, dated March 9, 2006, were sealed by procedural rulings.

stating the justification for further withholding the information from public inspection.²

A unique feature of this proceeding was the Commission's first-ever live web-cast and subsequent archiving of the evidentiary hearings. Transcripts, in an audio-video form, excluded or permanently deleted the confidential sessions of the evidentiary hearings at my direction and therefore the confidential portions cannot be restored.

Therefore, **IT IS RULED** that:

1. The exhibits, briefs and transcripts listed above which were sealed in A. 05-06-028, shall remain sealed as confidential for two (2) years from the date of this ruling.

2. If PG&E believes that further protection of this information is needed after two years, it may file a motion stating the justification for further withholding the information from public inspection. Any motion for further confidentiality must be filed no later than ninety (90) days before the expiration of this Ruling.

Dated June 2, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ DOUGLAS M. LONG

Douglas M. Long

Administrative Law Judge

² This is an intentional change from the 30-day provision in ALJ Cooke's Ruling.

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Upon confirmation of this document's acceptance for filing, I will cause a copy of the filed document to be served upon the service list to this proceeding by U.S. mail. The service list I will use to serve the copy of the filed document, which is current as of today's date, is attached.

Dated June 2, 2006, San Francisco, California.

/s/ ELVIRA NIZ
Elvira Niz

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